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M I N U T E S

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

8 - 9 August 1988

Meeting held in

Loccum, Federal Republic of Germany

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Loccum, Federal Republic of Germany
8-9 August 1988

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and worship

The Executive Committee was held at the Evangelical Academy of Loccum, Federal Republic of Germany, on the invitation of the Abbot of Loccum, Bishop Horst Hirschler. On Sunday evening 7 August members of the Committee were welcomed at a Reception in the Abbey Refectory.

On Monday 8 August, opening worship was led by the Moderator, Dr Held. Worship on Tuesday was led by Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios.

The meeting convened at 8.45 a.m. on Monday 8 August 1988. Dr Held opened the meeting, and expressed his pleasure that the Committee had come to his home country. Dr Mai, Director of the Academy, welcomed members and gave a brief survey of the history of the Academy and the Abbey of Loccum.

B. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those attending and presented apologies from Patriarch Ignatios IV, Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra, Archbishop Athanasios of Beni Souef, and Archbishop Kirill of Smolensk.

C. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Istanbul, 7-12 March 1988, were confirmed, with one correction: on page 34, paragraph B, the reference should be to the Executive Committee in September 1987.

D. Adoption of agenda and timetable

With some changes in the order of business, the agenda and timetable were adopted.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary began by paying tribute to ecumenical leaders who had died since the last meeting of the Executive Committee: Rev. Alfredo Santiago de Jesús, Council of Churches for Latin America (CLAI); Prof. Dr Wilhelm Niesel, FRG, former president of WARC; Dr Gerhard Claas, FRG, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance; Dr Gerard J.C. van der Horst, Netherlands,

general director of the Interchurch Coordination Committee for Development Projects (ICCO), Netherlands; Rev. Victor E.W. Hayward, UK, former WCC associate general secretary; Lord Ramsey of Canterbury, former Archbishop of Canterbury and a President of the WCC from 1961-1968; Rt Rev. Festo Kivengere, Bishop of the Church of Uganda and a guest at the Nairobi Assembly; Rev. Edgar Chandler, USA, former director of the WCC Refugee Service; Ms Janet Lacey, CBE, first director of Christian Aid, UK; Rt Rev. Josiah Kibira, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, former member of Central Committee; Ms Sahara Kemali, Kenya, AACC Refugee Department; His Holiness Patriarch Abuna Tekle Haimanot, Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

Dr Castro's visits to member churches in the period since March 1988 included Taiwan, South Korea, Canada, and the Pacific where he had attended a regional meeting in the Solomon Islands. He also spent a short time at the Lambeth Conference where one of the main questions was that of the ordination of women. Together with other staff members he attended the celebrations on the occasion of the Millennium of the baptism of Rus organised in Moscow in June 1988 by the Russian Orthodox Church, with the presence of representatives of many different traditions and groups. The event had great ecumenical significance for the churches in the Soviet Union.

The General Secretary referred to the Finance Committee's report at the Istanbul meeting suggesting the need to look to the future with a sense of realism due to the present tendencies in income. A "Future Group" has therefore been constituted as a forum for dreaming about the future of the Council in the period leading up to the next assembly, which would be the time for initiating any necessary changes in organisational style and emphases. He was concerned at the growing tendency to create new structures to respond to new programmes as has been the case in recent years. With 14 sub-units as well as Bossey and Communication, the attention of the churches is being called to an ever increasing range of items - including requests for programmatic and financial support - to an extent that some are feeling overwhelmed and find themelves correspondingly less able to respond.

A number of questions have to be raised regarding our style of work, which at present is more fitted to address challenges to the churches than to accompany them or listen to them. There are however some positive experiences of regional considerations that must be taken more into account in the future; how do we liberate ourselves in order to be more relational and more regional in our approaches? We must regain flexibility in relation to programme needs, and learn again how to pool our resources.

The General Secretary referred to a request from Central Committee asking for new mechanisms for the setting of priorities, and he asked the Executive Committee for advice. For example, the programme on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation had been called for by the Vancouver Assembly and its urgency endorsed by both Executive and Central Committees, yet, although many sub-units are cooperating in a variety of ways, there has been no clear decision on how to raise the necessary financial resources for such a programme.

In discussion, Dr Tolen said he finds that the Council's method of working does not promote unity of action in many of the churches. Dr Wilson added that her church's agenda has very little intersection with that of the WCC and she felt it important to work with this in mind so that some changes in direction can be planned in order to be ready for introduction at the next assembly. She stressed the need to keep in touch with regional ideas while maintaining the central role of the WCC which is important in terms of a world and global perspective: how can these two be better inter-related?

Dr McCloud warned that the financial situation could not sustain the present structure beyond 1991 and urged that there be no delay in consideration of how to improve the effectiveness of the Council's programmes.

3. REPORT OF THE MODERATOR TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Moderator outlined the report he proposed to present to the Central Committee, which this time would follow that of the General Secretary. His task was to give an account of the work of the Executive Committee, and to make some reference to the work on vital and coherent theology. Dr Held saw his report as an opportunity to comment about actions taken and work done in the last period, and to bring some personal theological aspects from his own context - a contextual vision of theological thought.

In discussion, Metropolitan Gregorios stressed the importance of including some projection towards the future, looking at where we should go as the ecumenical movement in the period after the forthcoming assembly.

With regard to the emerging idea that a theological understanding of creation be the basic framework within which we think about justice and peace questions, Metropolitan Gregorios urged that in terms of the needs of humanity, there was no doubt that justice and peace must be given highest priority. He disliked the term "solidarity with the poor", which he considered to be widely misused by those who are not poor, and it has no meaning for the poor themselves. The basic problem was one of justice rather than of poverty. By talking about solidarity with the poor we are likely to be misunderstood, since this is heard as paternalistic by many in Asia and Africa. Dr Tolen added that the poor should be in solidarity among themselves; in many of our struggles we are weak because we are not united.

Bishop Hempel asked that reference be made to the community of women and men as he felt this to be so important that it should be repeated time and again in order to become more fully accepted by the churches. Dr Tolen asked that the Moderator give more visibility to vital and coherent theology in his report.

On the question of procedure, Dr McCloud said it would be more helpful to the Moderator and the General Secretary if this kind of discussion took place at the Executive Committee meeting prior to the pre-Central Committee one in order to help them prepare their reports in advance. It was unreasonable to expect them to make major changes at this stage.

4. PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE MODERATOR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

At this meeting, the Executive Committee would be asked to take decisions on three matters it had already discussed in Istanbul. These were the request from the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey for financial assistance, the issue of a possible activity of the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society (EDCS) in Southern Africa, and a proposal regarding membership responsibilities of churches in the WCC. It would also have to consider a cost of living increase in staff salaries.

The rest of the financial issues would be dealt with by the Central Committee itself and would centre around the adoption of a budget for 1989, knowing that two world meetings will be held in 1989 and 1990, and the Seventh Assembly in 1991.

As members would remember, 1987 was the first year the Council experienced a deficit after a long period of stability. While the US dollar has strengthened in recent months, another deficit is probably unavoidable in 1988. In both cases the reserves and fund balances of the Council cover the shortfall due to the drop of the US dollar and, to a lesser extent, to other related currencies. The loss in receipts due to this fall in currency values represents over three million Swiss francs a year.

At its last meeting in Istanbul, the Executive Committee and staff were informed that the financial situation of the Council would not sustain the present level of activity in the years prior to the next assembly. The Sub-committee had asked staff to prepare a financial projection through the Seventh Assembly. The question was really how long the WCC can continue to draw on its fund balances before it faces a financial crisis and what the situation would be at the time of the assembly.

The Finance Sub-committee would receive responses to these questions as it considers the 1989 budget. While the fund balances of the Council appear to be sufficient to cover the period up to the next assembly, they will have dropped to a very low level and leave the Council fragile and unacceptably exposed to any other financial storm in the future. Such a situation would not be unlike the one prevailing at the time of the Nairobi assembly.

In order to reduce this exposure we must not delay in taking measures that will alter the way in which we function and our methods of operation so as to provide for an organisation that is sustainable within the available resources (staff, programme and finance).

We welcome the attention that the staff has begun to give to this issue as indicated in the report of the General Secretary, and, from the perspective of the Finance Sub-committee, we would hope that the Executive Committee will give strong support to the General Secretary in his efforts.

The staff was not in a position to bring a balanced 1989 budget proposal on the basis of the assumptions made to that effect by the Executive Committee in Istanbul, areas of particular concern

being CWME and JPIC. The General Secretary has therefore taken stop-gap measures to "patch-up" the situation in the first months of 1989. In spite of this, the Central Committee will need to take restrictive measures regarding the project spending levels for that year. The dilemma facing the Finance Sub-committee is the limited size of the undesignated funds available and the large needs some of the sub-units require. The policy on the allocation of undesignated income will certainly have to be reviewed.

During this meeting in Hanover, members of the Central and Executive Committees would therefore need to exercise considerable restraint and prudence in their planning of the activities of the Council through the next Assembly.

Finally, Dr McCloud said that members of the Central Committee Finance Committee would be joining the Sub-committee in Loccum so that, once the financial issues for the Executive Committee have been dealt with, the issues for the Central Committee could be considered by the Finance Committee prior to the sessions of the Unit Committees at the end of the week. Members of the Finance Committee would therefore be able to participate fully in the Unit Committees to which they belong.

In response to a question by Dr Tolen, Dr McCloud explained that restraint should apply to programmes and to staff appointments, as well as to the number of meetings planned. He referred to the recent practice of developing short-term experimental programmes proposed by Unit Committees, using earned interest. The Finance Sub-committee would receive a proposal for submission to Central Committee that this practice be discontinued in order that income on undesignated funds can be used to help underwrite the proposed budget.

5. REPORT OF ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC)

Dr Avery Post, Moderator of the APC, reported on the second meeting which had just taken place. The Committee's overriding aim was to abide by the principles of simplicity and coherence. With these in mind they were proposing that each delegate to the assembly would belong to two fundamental groupings only: 1) to the plenary, and 2) to a section, where work would be done on the sub-themes - biblically, theologically, evaluatively and interpretatively. Sections would be divided into sub-sections for bible study and work on issues; sections would be the only channel for making recommendations to the plenary. The possibility of regional groupings was also under consideration.

At the forthcoming meeting of Central Committee, recommendations concerning the theme and sub-themes would be presented in a deliberative session. The emphasis on the Holy Spirit was clear, and the APC had received a large number of suggested formulations which could be classed under three types: - a theme which is a prayer; a theme with attributes to the spirit; a theme relating to the work of the spirit. The APC had agreed to the prayer mode, and their unanimous recommendation was that the theme be:

"COME, HOLY SPIRIT - RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH"

Four sub-themes were proposed, also in the prayer mode:

Giver of Life - Sustain your Creation!
Spirit of Truth - Set us Free!
Spirit of Unity - Reconcile your People!
Holy Spirit - Transform and Sanctify Us!

6. REVIEW OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE PROGRAMME

The General Secretary explained the function of a deliberative plenary which was to provide opportunity for the sharing of information and discussion without the need for decision-making.

Ms Sovik presented the proposed programme and drew attention to a number of innovations that had been requested.

7. PUBLIC ISSUES

Mr Koshy said that, after staff discussion, it was proposed that the Central Committee make statements on four issues:

- 40th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights;
- International Peace Conference on the Middle East in the form of a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations
- Expulsion of the Christian Conference of Asia from Singapore;
- Refugees and asylum.

Metropolitan Gregorios hoped that the concept of "rights" would be studied in detail sometime; the term has a particular origin in western liberal humanism, but when considered theologically the concept becomes doubtful. The concept nowadays includes social and economic rights and should also be related to the concept of security: this was a crucial issue in relation to human rights and should be dealt with in that context. He also felt that more work should be done on the question of freedom of education, especially in situations where state education imposes a particular ideology on all the children.

Dr Nababan asked that some mention be made of the Iran/Iraq conflict. Ms Skuse had been asked to raise the issue of Fiji and wondered whether a pastoral letter could be sent to the churches there. Bishop Toth stressed the importance of mentioning East/West relationships with reference to the changes in Soviet policy. Dr McCloud felt that Southern Africa should always remain on our agenda and urged its inclusion.

Mr Koshy said that these comments would be shared with members of the Public Issues Committee; participants from the regions concerned would be consulted as appropriate.

On the question of the selection of public issues, he explained that the criteria can only provide general guidelines; issues are usually raised through the sub-units.

Recommendations from the Hearing on Namibia in Washington would be raised through the Unit II Committee. Regarding Fiji, Mr Koshy said it would be more appropriate for the Officers to send a pastoral letter after consultation with those from the region. He felt the time was not ripe for a statement on perestroika but information on the situation should be shared.

Mr Voksoe noted that the Committee had previously agreed to have only a limited number of public issues; he felt that four were sufficient and other matters should be referred to the Unit Committees. It was his opinion that Central Committee statements lose their effectiveness if there are too many, and have less value if they are too long.

It was agreed to propose the four subjects already listed, plus Southern Africa and East/West relations. Only three out of the six would be statements, while the others would be in the form of letters or comment.

The membership of the Public Issues Committee was referred to the Nominations Sub-committee.

3. SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

In a closed session, Rev. Barney Pityana presented the list of allocations for 1988 as proposed by the PCR Commission. Fifty-nine applications had been accepted and the total allocations proposed amounted to $635,500. Mr Pityana noted that in recent years there had been a considerable increase in requests for support from Brazil, reflecting the rising consciousness of the racism issue there. The PCR Officers wished to maintain a very strong commitment to Southern Africa, mindful also of the emphasis on Namibia expressed by the Lusaka Consultation in 1987.

Archbishop Makhulu referred to his previous statements regarding the amounts proposed for grants to ANC and PAC. Mr Pityana explained on behalf of the PCR Officers that their main concern was not to support organisations as such but to apply the criteria laid down by the WCC for the allocation of grants. Both Dr Nababan and Dr Tolen stressed the importance of clarifying this problem, and the Executive Committee asked the WCC Officers to seek ways of resolving it as a matter of urgency.

At another session, the Executive Committee agreed to approve the list of grants totalling $635,500 as presented by the PCR Officers for 1988 (appendix III).

In addition, it was agreed that, before the April 1989 meeting of the PCR Officers to decide on the allocation of grants for 1989, the General Secretary arrange a consultation with representatives of the WCC member churches of South Africa to seek advice. A report of this consultation should be brought to the Executive Committee in July 1989 for consideration before a decision is made on the allocations for 1989.

9. JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Dr Bührig referred to the meeting of the Preparatory Group for the World Convocation held in July at Crêt-Bérard. It had been agreed to try and seek a different style for the Convocation, and the aim was to encourage acts of commitment on the issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Attendance at the Convocation would be limited, with the result that not all member churches could be represented, but it was hoped that efforts might be made by some churches within one country to agree among themselves on joint representation.

The documents were passed to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Dr Nababan, presenting the report of the Programme Sub-committee, introduced the report on JPIC as follows:

JPIC World Convocation

A. Venue and date

The Sub-committee recommends that the World Convocation be held in Seoul, Korea, for seven days between 3-13 March 1990 allowing time for arrivals and departures and pre-Convocation events, and asks the Officers to fix the exact dates in consultation with the NCC Korea. The Sub-committee further recommends that the meetings of the APC, the Executive Committee and Central Committee now planned for 10-24 March 1990 be postponed by one week.

The exact dates, inclusive of arrival and departure days, were agreed as follows for approval by Central Committee:

JPIC World Convocation	5-13 March 1990
Assembly Planning Committee	18-22 March 1990
Executive Committee	22-24 March 1990
Central Committee	24-30 March 1990

B. Representation

The Sub-committee endorses the proposal of the JPIC Preparatory Group that the distribution of participants should be:

WCC member churches	300
Roman Catholic Church	50
Christian World Communions, regional ecumenical bodies, other non-member churches	100
Advisers and guests	50
Reserve for balanced representation	50

With regard to representativeness, the Sub-committee agrees on the following to be applied to all participants invited by the WCC:

a) The same minimum goals as for the Canberra Assembly: Women 40%, Youth 15%, Lay 50%.

b) A significant number of the participants should be actively engaged in the struggle for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Among them should be those in people's movements/action groups and those who can testify to their own experience of suffering the consequences of injustice, war and the destruction of creation.

   Therefore, 30% of the places should be reserved for such persons.

c) Since the size of the Convocation and the requirements regarding balance preclude all WCC member churches being represented, the General Secretary should invite the member churches to nominate persons who are competent on these issues and who can represent them, keeping in mind the balances mentioned above.

d) Churches in the same country would be urged to consult one another with regard to their eventual representation in order to have the most balanced group from their country.

e) The General Secretary will likewise invite the other participating organizations to nominate representatives.

f) The Preparatory Group would then select participants from among those nominated, keeping in mind the goals mentioned above, and report to the Executive Committee in Moscow in July 1989 for approval.
   The selection of representatives of WCC member churches should take into account the appropriate regional and confessional balances.

g) If the above stated criteria are not met, the Preparatory Group would suggest further names, in consultation with the churches, to fulfil the requirements for balance.

The Sub-committee also endorses the proposal that the Roman Catholic Church be asked to follow the same guidelines for its representatives.

Among the guests of the Convocation would be included persons from other faiths who are actively engaged in the struggle for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

Mr Voksoe was concerned that it would be very difficult for the churches to select delegates appropriately unless they are absolutely clear what is expected of these delegates; to what extent will the churches be prepared for their delegates to speak on their behalf and commit them to the theological affirmation? He hoped that Central Committee would reach clarity about the character of the Convocation and its expected outcome.

Dr McCloud was emphatic that any decision must be made with the full understanding that it will be carried out only within the limits of funds available. A proposal regarding the budget would go to Central Committee, and the Executive Committee should therefore indicate this proviso in its action regarding the Convocation.

With regard to b) above, Ms Abayasekera said that although many people in action groups and people's movements are also in the churches, there are others who are not accepted in church circles and who are therefore not in a position to represent a church. Dr Love said that this proposal was an attempt to hold the two concerns together: we need people who are involved in the churches as well as those actively engaged in the struggle.

On the question of commitment, Dr Love hoped that delegates to the Convocation would have some authority to make commitments, though obviously they would not have juridical authority to bind the churches in any way. The Preparatory Group was hoping for something more than individuals coming with a sense of personal commitment; they wanted the churches to have a sense of ownership of the process so that through their delegates they would commit themselves to engage in the struggle.

Dr Nababan felt that those coming from action groups should also have some relation to the churches. He asked that the list of proposed participants be shared with the Executive Committee in advance of the July meeting when decisions regarding attendance would have to be made.

Bishop Toth asked what would make this Convocation different from other WCC conferences. We are speaking about a conciliar process in connection with the Convocation, but what will be the guarantee that the Convocation will be an integral part of this conciliar process? People in the churches will ask what is different. Dr Bührig responded that another paper would be shared with the Central Committee showing that it is part of the conciliar process and noting that we are expecting commitment from the churches.

Dr McCloud reiterated the need to include an indication that, in view of the need to obtain special funding and the impossibility of predicting the amount that will be received, it must be made clear that the Convocation costs remain within the range of available resources.

The Executive Committee agreed, with three abstentions, to the recommendations of the Programme Sub-committee. Ms Abayasekera and Dr McCloud asked that their abstentions be recorded.

10. REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Nababan presented the rest of the report of the Sub-committee:

1. Location of staff outside Switzerland

The Sub-committee recommends that the General Secretary continue to explore the questions related to staff structure and style of work, including the advantages and disadvantages of locating staff outside Switzerland, and report to the Executive Committee for further consideration and discussion with the Finance Sub-committee, as proposed by the Central Committee in 1987.

This was agreed.

2. Resource Sharing

Dr Nababan presented the recommendation of the Sub-committee:

The Sub-committee considered a report on the World Consultation on Resource Sharing with proposals for follow-up on the El Escorial Guidelines and the recommendations to Central Committee (appendix IV), and a paper on the proposed mandate of the Secretariat (appendix V). It suggests that point 6a of the latter be amended to read:

"to identify and assist some churches in different parts of the world (South, North, East) with which more specific follow-up might be done."

The Sub-committee recommends that:

a) the proposals for follow-up and the recommendations as contained in appendix IV be forwarded to Central Committee,

b) the mandate of the Secretariat (appendix V) be approved for the period 1988-1991.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

Dr Talbot expressed thanks to Dr Nababan and to the Programme Sub-committee for the report.

11. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

A. Appointments to Committees, Commissions and Working Groups

1. Central Committee

The Nominations Sub-committee considered proposals for replacement of members of Central Committee which had become necessary due to the resignation of two members.

In a closed session, Dr Talbot presented the names proposed for nomination to the Central Committee to fill the vacancies:

The Sub-committee recommended that, following consultation with the church, the Rev. Manasa Lasaro (Methodist Church in Fiji) be elected by Central Committee to replace Rev. Inoke Nabulivou who had resigned following his move to Australia;

The Sub-committee further recommended that, following consultation with his church, Mr Jorge Luiz Ferreira Domingues (Methodist Church in Brazil) be elected as a member of Central Committee to replace Mr Paulo Lutero de Melle E Silva, (Evangelical Pentecostal Church "Brazil for Christ") whose resignation was recorded in January 1987.

The Executive Committee agreed to make these recommendations to the Central Committee.

2. Assembly Planning Committee

Dr Talbot reported that Revd Albert Burua, (United Church in Papua New Guinea & the Solomon Islands) had been unable to attend the meetings of APC held so far and the Nominations Sub-committee proposed that Revd Manasa Lasaro, (General Secretary of the Methodist Church of Fiji) be nominated for appointment by Central Committee in his place. The Executive Committee agreed to make this recommendation to the Central Committee.

3. Commissions and Working Groups

A number of vacancies had arisen in the membership of several Commissions and Working Groups. The Nominations Sub-committee considered a list of names proposed to fill the vacancies and Dr Talbot presented these for approval.The Executive Committee agreed to nominate the persons proposed. It was noted that all such appointments are subject to the agreement of the churches concerned.

B. Membership of Public Issues Committee

Dr Talbot presented the Sub-committee's proposal that the following members of Central Committee be recommended for membership of the Public Issues Committee which would be working on the public statements: Dr Wilson (moderator), Dr Buevski, Ms Jarjour, Archbishop Keshishian, Bishop Kruse, Archbishop Makhulu, Dr Nababan, Mr Sabug and Ms Skuse. It was also proposed that the following be appointed as advisers to the Committee: Dr van Boven, Ms Gruber, Mr Habib and Mr John.

The Executive Committee agreed to make this recommendation to the Central Committee.

C. Assembly Worship Committee (AWC)

The Sub-committee considered proposals for membership of the Assembly Worship Committee. In presenting the list of names, Dr Talbot said concern had been expressed at the small number of lay persons included, but pointed out that the Committee would be free to coopt advisers to help in its work and could be urged to include lay people wherever possible.

Mr Faa'alo felt that in view of the location of the Assembly the Pacific region should be represented on the AWC. It was pointed out that it was difficult to ensure the necessary expertise as well as regional and confessional balance in a group of only eight members.

Dr McCloud requested that when such committees are to be appointed, the list of proposed names be circulated in advance to avoid lengthy discussion on individual names and on the question of balanced representation. He asked whether there was a rationale for limiting the committee to a membership of eight and proposed that it be increased to nine; that the additional person be appointed by the Officers from the

Pacific region in consultation with the Pacific Conference of Churches, and that preference be given to a laywoman. This was agreed.

The Executive Committee agreed to the membership of the Assembly Worship Committee as follows:

Great Protopresbyter Georges Tsetsis - Moderator (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, Switzerland
Bishop Vinton Anderson, African Methodist Episcopal Church, USA
Archbishop Nerses Bozabalian, Armenian Apostolic Church, USSR
Rev. Per Harling, Church of Sweden
Rev. Jaci Maraschin, Episcopal Church of Brazil
Rev. Dorothy McMahon, Uniting Church of Australia
Rev. Lydia Niguidula, United Church of Christ in the Philippines
Ms Dina Reindorf, Methodist Church, Ghana,

One person from the Pacific to be appointed.

12. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr McCloud presented the report.

1. WCC Retirement Fund Board Membership

The Executive Committee was aware that Harry Ashmall had resigned from Central Committee; as a representative of the employer in the WCC Retirement Fund Board, he therefore needs to be replaced.

The Executive Committee is requested to appoint a new member to the Board from among its members.

The present membership of the Board is as follows:

Employer:	Oscar McCloud	Moderator, USA
	Marga Bührig	Switzerland
	Harry Ashmall	UK
Retired employee:	Heinz Spaeter	Switzerland
Active exployees:	Herman de Graaf	Switzerland/Netherlands
	Rosemarie Kilchenmann	Switzerland
	Hugh Pettingell	UK
	Teny Pirri-Simonian	Lebanon

Israel Batista, from Cuba, will replace Herman de Graaf who is retiring at the end of 1988.

The Sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee appoint Mr Per Voksoe to the Board of the Retirement Fund.

The Executive Committee agreed.

2. Request from the Bossey Board

Following the Executive Committee action in Istanbul (March 1988), the Bossey Board has requested an increased allocation of undesignated funds. The Sub-committee has determined that the request should be considered within the context of the 1989 budget by the Finance Committee of the Central Committee.

3. Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society (EDCS) and S.Africa

The Executive Committee in Istanbul (March 1988) asked that EDCS be formally requested to state its own position regarding the WCC criteria on banks and South Africa, and the extent to which its activities meet those criteria.

The EDCS has been considering making a loan to a church-related cooperative in South Africa after consultation with and approval by the SACC.

On the basis of the response received from EDCS, the Sub-committee recommends that the WCC continue its relationshp with EDCS as a shareholder and that the staff be requested to engage in discussions with the SACC and EDCS to define together how the distinction between some loans that are acceptable and those that are not can be interpreted.

The Sub-committee considers that the disinvestment called for in the private sector is related to commercial enterprises. It also underlined that a basic criterion for the acceptability of loans is that the initiative for such operations lies with the member churches of the WCC and their conciliar bodies in South Africa.

Dr McCloud said that the matter would be raised in the Central Committee in the presence of a representative of EDCS.

The Executive Committee agreed to the recommendation.

4. Minimum tangible sign of membership

The Sixth Assembly directed the new Central Committee to "draw up a statement of the financial responsibilities of membership with a view to its ultimate inclusion in the Rules of the World Council of Churches. These responsibilities, while not a condition of membership, should be recognised as a minimum tangible sign of every member church's commitment."

In subsequent meetings of the Executive and Central Committees, it was recognised that the present Rules of the Council do not contain a section on the responsibilities of membership, and the governing bodies expressed the view that such a section should incorporate, but go beyond, the financial concern highlighted by the Sixth Assembly.

The March 1988 Executive Committee reviewed a preliminary statement of "Expectations of WCC Membership" which could contextualise the broader discussion of membership responsi-

bilities in the Committee on the General Secretariat of the Central Committee. The framework of the paper was endorsed and suggestions made, which have been incorporated into a new draft (appendix VI).

In terms of financial responsibilities, three important conclusions have been reached:

1. All member churches should find ways to provide annual financial support to the WCC general budget (hereafter referred to as "membership contributions") as part of their membership responsibility;

2. Membership contributions should be part of an intentional overall financial negotiation regarding their membership responsibility in the WCC;

3. Membership contributions made in the form of "other contributions" should be intentionally negotiated and must offset regularly budgeted programme costs in a particular year.

With this in mind, the Finance Sub-committee considered the specific language regarding finance which might be included in the Rules (see item (f) of appendix VI) and recommends that the Executive Committee adopt this item for referral to the Committee on the General Secretariat of the Central Committee for subsequent incorporation into whatever other statement of responsibilities of membership may be recommended by that committee. The other parts of the appended document are forwarded only to contextualise the statement on financial responsibility and are included for information. The recommended item will be referred to the Committee on the General Secretariat for further discussion and action.

Metropolitan Gregorios said his church was unable to assume responsibility for the costs of its delegation to the assembly. Dr Nababan asked whether it was necessary to attach the appendix; Dr McCloud responded that this paper had been prepared by the Finance Committee on the encouragement of the Executive Committee, and would be considered by the Committee on the General Secretariat

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation; Metropolitan Gregorios voted against.

5. Procedures to avoid budget overruns

Following the budget overruns that occurred in 1987, the Sub-committee discussed ways to avoid such overruns in the future.

While the Sub-committee recognised the active responsibility of directors of sub-units for their budget, the ultimate accountability rests with the General Secretary. It requested that further work be undertaken to identify the policy issues related to the authorisation of expenditures and of possible overruns.

6. Cost of living increase

Regulation III 1.06 of the Staff Rules and Regulations states: "The cost of living index in Geneva shall be reviewed twice a year as at 31 December and 30 June. If the cost of living has increased by 4% or more since the last revision, the salary scale may be adapted effective as from 1 April and 1 October."

The salary scale was last adapted on 1 April 1986 on the basis of the increase in the cost of living up to 31 December 1985. On that date the Geneva Cost of Living Index was 111. The index on 30 June 1988 was 116. This represents a 4.5% increase since 31 December 1985. After hearing a representative of the Staff Representative Group, the Sub-committee recommends that a 4.5% increase be granted on all salaries as from 1 October 1988.

The Sub-committee would request that, in the future, the matters having to do with personnel policies be dealt with by the Staffing Sub-committee, and that the Finance Sub-committee be asked to look at the financial issues related to personnel questions.

The Executive Committee agreed to the recommendation.

Dr McCloud noted that the Staff Representative Group has the prerogative of expressing its opinion about a cost of living increase and it is appropriate for a representative of SRG to be heard by the Finance Sub-committee. However, the Finance Sub-committee believes it is not for them to determine how a cost of living increase should be applied; their concern was whether or not the WCC is financially able to grant such an increase.

7. General considerations

In light of the discussions held in this Executive Committee on finance and the establishment of programme priorities, and of some aspects of the Finance Sub-committee discussions, the Sub-committee recommends that consideration be given in preparing the agenda for the next meeting of the Executive Committee to the possibility of an early session of the Executive on the financial implications and consequences of programmatic and personnel policy decisions.

The Sub-committee has given staff suggestions as to some of the issues that will need to be raised in that discussion at the three levels of financial planning, budget development and budgetary discipline.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

Dr McCloud concluded by expressing appreciation to the staff for their assistance during this meeting. The Moderator thanked the Finance Sub-committee and its moderator for the work done and the report presented.

NEXT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Moderator reported that with many regrets the invitation to hold the next meeting in Bucharest had had to be withdrawn for the present. It was agreed to meet in Geneva on 12-18 February 1989. Dr Talbot asked that time be given during that meeting to look at long-range plans; time should also be allocated to further work on vital and coherent theology.

CLOSING ACTIONS

Dr Held expressed warm thanks to the Evangelical Academy of Loccum, in particular to Dr Hans Mai, the director, and to Mr Wilhelm Puppe, the manager, as well as to the staff of the Academy, especially the receptionists and kitchen staff. Thanks were also expressed on behalf of the Executive Committee to the General Secretary and staff for their help in preparation for and during the meeting.

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Presidents:	Dame Nita Barrow	
	Dr Marga Bührig	
	Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios	
	Bishop Dr Johannes Hempel	
	Most Rev. Khotso Makhulu	
	Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson	
Officers:	Rev. Dr Heinz Joachim Held	(Moderator)
	Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot	(Vice-Moderator)
	Rev. Dr Emilio Castro	(General Secretary)
Members:	Ms Annathaie Abayasekera	
	Metropolitan Antonie of Transsylvania	
	Mr Bena-Silu	
	Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo	
	Ms Joyce Kaddu	
	Dr Janice Love	
	Rev. Dr Oscar McCloud	
	Ephorus Dr Soritua Nababan	
	Rev. Meinrad Piske	
	Ms Jean Skuse	
	Dr Aaron Tolen	
	Bishop Dr Karoly Toth	
	Mr Per Voksoe	
Consultants:	Rev. Dr Avery Post	
	Bishop Sergiy of Solnechogorsk	
Guest:	Ms Ruth Esche	
Staff:	Rev. Toshitsugu Arai	
	Rev. Dr Wesley Ariarajah	
	Mr Huibert van Beek	
	Ms Midge Béguin-Austin	
	Prof. Ion Bria	
	Rev. Joan Campbell	
	Mr Patrick Coïdan	
	Mr Trevor Davies	
	Ms Yvonne Fernandes	
	Rev. Dr Günther Gassmann	
	Prof. Dr Adriaan Geense	
	Mr Ninan Koshy	
	Dr Preman Niles	
	Ms Mercy Oduyoye	
	Mr Oh Jae Shik	
	Rev. William Perkins	
	Mr Hugh Pettingell	
	Rev. Barney Pityana	

Dr Klaus Poser
Prof. Todor Sabev
Ms Ruth Sovik
Ms Jean Stromberg
Rev. Dr Frederick Wilson

Interpreters: Mr Vassily Makhnev
Ms Renate Sbeghen
Ms Ursula Zierl

Minute writer: Ms Rosemary Green

Administration: Ms Shelagh Friedli

APOLOGIES

Presidents: Patriarch Ignatios IV of Antioch
and All the East

Officer: His Eminence Chrysostomos, Metropolitan of Myra
(Vice-Moderator)

Members: Archbishop Athanasios of Beni Souef
Archbishop Kirill of Smolensk

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME

Metropolitan Chrysostomos - Moderator (not present)
Metropolitan Antonie
Dr Marga Bührig
Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
Bishop Dr Johannes Hempel
Patriarch Ignatios IV (not present)
Ms Joyce Kaddu
Dr Janice Love
Rt Revd S.A.E. Nababan - Acting Moderator
Dr Aaron Tolen

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Revd Dr J. Oscar McCloud - Moderator
Mr Béna-Silu
Revd Puafitu Faa'alo
Ms Jean Skuse
Mr Per Voksoe
Very Revd Lois Wilson

SUB-COMMITTEE ON STAFFING AND NOMINATIONS

Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot - Moderator
Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
Archbishop Athanasios (not present)
Dame R. Nita Barrow
Archbishop Kirill (not present)
Archbishop W.P.K. Makhulu
Revd Meinrad Piske
Bishop Karoly Toth

APPENDIX III

SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

PROPOSED LIST OF ALLOCATIONS FOR 1988

I. GROUPS OF THE RACIALLY OPPRESSED

	US Dollars	
AFRICA		
African National Congress (ANC) *	105.000	
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) *	45.000	
South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) *	20.000	
South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) *	150.000	320.000
ASIA		
Japan		
The National Christian Coalition on Alien Registration Law Issues *	5.000	
National Conference of Minority People in Japan *	4.000	
Yay Yukar Ainu Society	10.000	19.000
OCEANIA		
Australia		
Kimberley Land Council *	7.000	
Western Desert Puntukurnuparna Land Council *	7.000	
New Caledonia		
Front de Liberation National Kanak Socialist	5.000	
New Zealand		
Kai Mohio Kai Marama Trust *	5.000	24.000
EUROPE		
Federal Republic of Germany		
Initiative Black Germans *	10.000	
Interessengem. der mit Ausländern verheirateten deutschen Frauen e.V. *	5.000	
Central Council of German Sinti and Roma *	5.000	
France		
Association des Travailleurs de Turquie (A.T.T.) *	4.000	
Movement for the Defence of the Rights of the Black Women *	4.000	
The Netherlands		
Coordination of the Associations of Moroccan Workers in Europe *	5.000	
United Kingdom		
Abasindi Cooperative, Moss Side People's Centre	4.000	
Broadwater Farm Defence Committee	7.000	
Claiming the Inheritance	5.000	49.000
LATIN AMERICA		
Brazil		
Quilombo Educacional Centre and Joao Cândido Cultural Association	3.000	
carried forward	3.000	412.000

brought forward	3.000	412.000
Afro-Brazilian Cultural Group "Zumbi"	11.000	
Olodum Cultural Group	3.000	
The Indigenous Women's Education Group *	11.000	
Institute for Research of Black Cultures *	10.000	
Peru		
"Francisco Congo" Black Movement	2.000	40.000
NORTH AMERICA		
Canada		
Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en Tribal Council *	5.000	
Kaska Dena Council *	5.000	
Lubicon Lake Band *	5.000	
Native Women's Association of Canada *	7.500	
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC) *	4.000	
World Council of Indigenous People (WCIP)	10.000	
USA		
Asian Law Caucus (ALC) *	5.000	
Asian Pacific American Legal Centre of Southern California *	5.000	
Association of Haitien Workers	7.500	
Black Hills Steering Committee *	10.000	
Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) *	4.000	
Robeson Three Defence Fund and Task Force	10.000	
UHANE-KAHEA, Hawaii *	5.000	
World Council of Indigenous Peoples, Hawaii Office *	3.000	86.000
Total Groups of the Racially Oppressed		538.000

II. SUPPORT GROUPS

ASIA		
Japan		
Group to Combat Ainu Discrimination	8.000	
Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee *	5.000	13.000
EUROPE		
Belgium		
Social Service for Foreigners *	5.000	
Federal Republic of Germany		
Information Centre on Southern Africa (ISSA) and Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAB) *	6.000	
France		
Popular Evangelical Mission of France	8.000	
French Anti-Apartheid Movement *	6.000	
Ireland		
Harmony	1.500	
Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement (IAAM) *	3.000	
carried forward	29.500	13.000

brought forward	29.500	13.000
United Kingdom		
Namibia Communications Centre*	4.000	
Scottish Committee - Anti-Apartheid Movement	5.000	
Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement (WAAM) *	4.000	
Switzerland		
Berne Declaration (BD) *	7.000	49.500
LATIN AMERICA		
Brazil		
Pastoral to Combat Racism	2.000	2.000
NORTH AMERICA		
Canada		
Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native People	3.000	
USA		
America Committee on Africa (ACOA) *	8.000	
Center for Democratic Renewal *	7.000	
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under Law *	5.000	
Legal Assistance Project for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes (LEAPCAT)	5.000	
Southern Organizing Committee for Economic & Social Justice (SOC) *	5.000	33.000
Total Support Groups		97.500
Total Allocations approved for 1988		635.500
Total groups receiving grants: 59		

(*) Groups having received grants in former years

APPENDIX IV

World Consultation on Resource Sharing

I. Introduction

The World Consultation on Resource Sharing was authorized by the Central Committee in 1985.In 1986 the Executive Committee approved its aim "to agree on an ecumenical discipline for the sharing of resources and to foster a process of commitment to such a discipline". The consultation took place in El Escorial, Spain, on 24-31 October 1987, with the theme "Koinonia - Sharing Life in a World Community". The Executive Committee received the summary report at its meeting in March 1988 and recommended that it be forwarded to the Central Committee; it asked the General Secretary to report on action to be taken.

The El Escorial consultation was characterized by a spirit of renewal and commitment which culminated as the meeting was coming to a close. Faced with the task of bringing to fruition twelve years of reflection on the Ecumenical Sharing of Resources, the consultation chose not to limit itself to amending some carefully prepared document, but to dare to speak on its own. Inspired by the main presentations and Bible studies it took up the challenge of stating in a concise manner the basic principles of sharing, the "ground rules" as it were.

These principles - the "El Escorial Guidelines" - were born out of the pains and sufferings of people in all parts of the world, out of an intensive awareness of the injustices of the prevailing world order, and at the same time a deep sense of solidarity and community. These Guidelines reflect a new understanding of sharing in which justice, participation, equality and mutual trust are the basis for a common commitment of all. It is a vision rooted in the conviction that God's gift of life is meant to be shared among all people. In the midst of our sinful realities the self-emptying love of Jesus Christ enables us as Christians to share life, in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit creates us as a new people, Christ's body which in the Eucharist is sent to be broken and shared for the world.

In drawing up the Guidelines the consultation affirmed that true sharing calls for a radical transformation of our existing practices. Such sharing aims at nothing less than a new order, a new value system. It puts at the centre those who are pushed to the margins, especially women and youth. It enables people to realize their selfhood. It compels the rich to identify with the cause of the poor. It breaks open unequal relationships to make partners mutually dependent. It puts an end to the divisions of mission and development. It empowers those who are denied power and resources.

To emphasize the full participation of women and youth, the consultation approved a special set of recommendations stating explicitly the goal of 50% women and 20% youth in all decision-making structures on ecumenical sharing.

The Guidelines are offered as a framework, a basis for a new discipline of ecumenical sharing. They have to be worked out in each situation where churches, councils, agencies or groups are involved in sharing. In the spirit of the consultation such a discipline is the mark of discipleship. It is a freely accepted code of conduct which takes shape in concrete actions and relationships. Those who observe it recognize each other as belonging to the same fellowship, sharing the same vision. El Escorial has called the churches and the WCC to commit themselves to the discipline emerging from these Guidelines for Sharing.

II. Proposals for follow-up

The consultation urged the WCC to take responsibility for monitoring the process, evaluating the responses to the Guidelines and concrete actions for follow-up from the member churches and the ecumenical resource sharing structures. The consensual acceptance of the important and difficult task of implementing the discipline strongly suggest such a follow-up until the next Assembly. This follow-up must be done both by the WCC itself and by the member churches, councils, agencies, groups, etc.

The WCC

1. In response to the challenge of El Escorial a discipline of resource sharing for the whole Council is being developed. This will take form in:

   a) concrete actions of the sub-units to work out the implications of the Guidelines and put them into practice;

   b) implementation of the recommendations on women and youth for the WCC sharing instruments.

   c) clear aims for the coordination of the sharing instruments of the sub-units, for the setting of priorities and for decision making;

   d) regional mechanisms, in particular Regional RS Groups;

2. The long-term perspectives of the El Escorial commitment for the WCC as a whole and for the life of the churches must also be worked out. Some key insights might be:

   - National and local experiences as the main priority in our ecumenical relationships.
   - New models of sharing to challenge the present value systems, international order and relationships.
   - The relation between inter-church sharing and sharing as defined by the poor and as an integral part of people's spirituality.
   - New values and challenges coming from the experience of churches in solidarity with women and from the participation of youth.
   - The integration of mission, service and development to find new expressions of the witness of the churches.
   - The importance of regional identities and approaches.

These perspectives and implications should be integrated into the programme and style of the Seventh Assembly.

3. The WCC will further stimulate the El Escorial follow-up through

a) a publication in the form of a brochure with biblical references, stories, commentaries and examples of action illustrating the El Escorial Guidelines and recommendations on women and youth.

b) the sharing of information on actions taken in different parts of the world to implement the El Escorial commitment (e.g. in a "newsletter").

The member churches

The WCC will monitor the process of reception of the Guidelines and play an active role in sharing proposals with the churches, councils, agencies and groups, encouraging them to respond to the El Escorial commitment and assisting them with putting the discipline into practice in their own situation.

Proposed actions:

1. Help the churches to direct their sharing toward the participation of the marginalized, the solidarity with the poor, the struggle against the causes of injustice, the empowerment and self-reliance of people and communities, so as to change the present order.

2. Aim at more mutuality between those who are donors and receivers in the present system, for example:

a) link groups with similar commitments to justice in different parts of the world (e.g. women's groups, solidarity groups, churches);

b) facilitate ecumenical visits to evaluate existing policies and structures of resource sharing;

c) develop forms of mutual accountability and participatory decision making between partners.

3. Evaluate and challenge in the light of the Guidelines the sharing taking place through bilateral relationships and take steps to include bilateral sharing in the discipline.

4. Build new ecumenical relationships putting into practice in them some of the El Escorial commitments, i.e. solidarity with the poor, interfaith sharing, sharing of power.

5. Make women's perspectives, experiences and concerns integral to all sharing:

a) reserve 50% of the membership for women in all decision-making structures on ecumenical sharing;

b) involve women in evaluating their own participation, and in suggesting new forms of ecumenical sharing;

c) reserve an increased percentage of available funds for women's priorities as exemplified in the women and youth statement and encourage women's groups to apply for resources and support for their projects;

6. Achieve the goal of 20% youth (women and men) in all decision making structures and increase the support for youth programmes to 10% of available funds.

7. Help the churches to move forward in developing a more holistic approach to their work of mission and service.

8. Encourage the agencies for mission and development in the North to put into practice the guidelines with regard to participation, accountability, shared decision making, etc.

9. Assess the existing relationships and mechanisms for ecumenical sharing and develop new ones, nationally, regionally and globally, including the support for ecumenical bodies at the national and regional levels.

Implementation

Within the WCC the new Staff Group for El Escorial Follow-up and the Secretariat for Ecumenical Sharing are responsible for follow-up action, under the moderatorship of the Deputy General Secretary, Staff Moderator of Unit II.

III. Recommendations to Central Committee

1. To receive the Guidelines for Sharing formulated at the World Consultation on Resource Sharing.

2. To affirm the WCC's commitment to the discipline emerging from the Guidelines and to instruct the Commissions and Working Groups to work out the implications for their sub-unit, with regard to their programme activities and their sharing instruments.

3. To call the member churches to receive the Guidelines for Sharing, to respond to the commitment, and to work out the discipline in their own situation.

4. To approve the Proposals for follow-up with regard to the WCC and the member churches for the period up until the Assembly and to ask the General Secretary to report on progress made on these proposals and on all other actions regarding follow-up to the next meeting of the Central Committee.

Note: The Guidelines for Sharing, and the recommendations on participation of women and youth, are published as an appendix to the Minutes of the Central Committee meeting, Hanover, FRG, August 1988.

APPENDIX V

Resource Sharing

The Executive Committee at its meeting in Istanbul asked for a report on the action to be taken on the El Escorial Guidelines for Sharing, the plans for implementing the Guidelines within the house and the function of the Secretariat for Ecumenical Sharing. The proposed actions for El Escorial follow-up both with regard to the WCC and the churches are contained in appendix IV (page 24-27). The function of the Secretariat is described in the mandate proposed here:

Mandate of the Secretariat for Ecumenical Sharing 1988-1991

A. The function of the Secretariat is to facilitate and monitor the El Escorial follow-up up to and through the Assembly, in accordance with the lines of action developed by a representative staff group.

B. The Staff Group on El Escorial Follow-up is the forum for discussion and coordination of the proposals for follow-up as approved by the Central Committee. Its role is to analyze the implications of El Escorial for the WCC, to promote the implementation of the discipline for the Council as a whole and to recommend lines of action to the sub-units. As part of this the group will function as a platform for improving the integration/ coordination of the existing WCC resource sharing instruments and mechanisms and of new ones to be set up.

C. The Secretariat will work in cooperation with all WCC sub-units concerned in carrying out its tasks.

D. The Secretary will be accountable to the General Secretary through the Deputy General Secretary/Unit II staff moderator, who will serve as moderator of the staff group. The Secretariat will report to Central Committee through the General Secretariat Committee.

E. The work of the Secretariat will include:

In relation to the Staff Group:

1. Serve as secretariat for the Staff Group.

In relation to the El Escorial event:

2. a) Finalize the full report of the El Escorial consultation.

   b) Publish a brochure with biblical references, etc. illustrating the Guidelines for Sharing.

   c) Ensure sharing of information on follow-up, e.g.through a "newsletter" and other such means.

3. Monitor the process of reception of the Guidelines by the churches and their response to the commitment; maintain contact with churches and agencies, in particular through and with the El Escorial participants;
facilitate ecumenical team visits and other such means to foster the implementation of the El Escorial commitments.

4. Work on long-term perspectives of El Escorial for the Assembly; consult with the El Escorial participants on ways in which they can give account of their commitment; prepare for some act of commitment by the churches at the Assembly.

In relation to the WCC:

5. Assist the Sub-units with implementing the El Escorial discipline for the WCC, suggest possible actions and facilitate the process, through such means as:

   a) discussion of the Guidelines in the Commissions and Working Groups to work out the implications for the sub-unit programmes and sharing instruments.

   b) assessment of existing relationships - mechanisms for sharing.

   c) development of new relationships - mechanisms.

In relation to the churches and agencies

6. Collaborate with the Sub-units through their various functional and regional modes of relationships, to facilitate follow-up actions with the churches, agencies and networks, such as:

   a) identify and assist some churches in different parts of the world (South, North, East) with which more specific follow-up might be done.

   b) facilitate some new ecumenical partnerships, putting into practice some of the El Escorial commitments.

   c) explore new relationships of mutuality and sharing of power.

   d) encourage agencies for mission and service/development to implement the El Escorial commitments, and to resource new sharing relationships, taking into account that existing relationships with agencies consist both of resourcing of programmes and projects and dialogue on policy issues.

APPENDIX VI

Expectations of WCC Membership

Membership in the World Council of Churches signifies commitment to the ecumenical movement, a commitment which is part of the core of Christian commitment, not an obligation on top of many others. Following from this, member churches are expected to:

a) carry out their local mission in the understanding that their faithfulness is their main contribution to the ecumenical movement;

b) participate in council with other member churches in shaping the ecumenical vision and the ecumenical agenda;

c) foster and encourage ecumenical relations and action at all levels of their life and to pursue ecumenical commitment in their own international relationships;

d) communicate the consequences of ecumenical commitment and interpret both the broader ecumenical movement and the WCC, its nature, purpose and programmes throughout their membership;

e) encourage participation in WCC programmes, activities, meetings, etc.;

f) make an annual contribution to the general budget and programmes of the WCC commensurate with their resources as part of regular and intentional negotiation with the Council as to responsibilities of membership.